



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARMED SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS

TUCSON, Ariz. – Defendant Jose Luis Gonzales, age 26, of Mesa, Arizona, was sentenced here to ten years in prison by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury. Defendant Gonzales had pleaded guilty on September 6, 2005, to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 184.3 kilograms of Marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, and Carrying a Firearm During a Drug Trafficking Offense in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i). His term of imprisonment is to be followed by a five year term of supervised release.

According to the plea agreement, U.S. Border Patrol agents encountered eight individuals resting next to bundles of marijuana on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Nation. Two of the individuals fled, one of whom dropped a loaded revolver. Defendant Gonzales was apprehended with a loaded .30 caliber M-1 carbine rifle and numerous rounds of ammunition on his person. Border Patrol agents recovered a total of 184.3 kilograms of marijuana at the scene. In addition to Defendant Gonzales, five others were arrested and are currently awaiting trial.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Border Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution was handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-303-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-203(Gonzales)

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